

Docket No.: 4600-0112PUS1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Keietsu ABE et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: April 22, 2005

Art Unit: N/A

For: METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF
USEFUL PRODUCTS BY MEANS OF
DECOMPOSITION OF PLASTICS BY
MICROORGANISMS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.

Copies of the references on the PTO/SB/08 are not provided.

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Those documents which are marked with a double asterisk (**) next to the Cite No. in the attached form PTO/SB/08 (facsimile) are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application number PCT/JP2003/011861, filed September 17, 2003.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

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It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 22, 2005
GMM/nl

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

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| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Filing Date | April 22, 2005 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Keietsu ABE |
| | | | | Art Unit | N/A |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 4600-0112PUS1 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ | Number-Kind Code ⁴ (if known) | | | | |
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| | BD** | JP-10-96174-A | | 04-14-1998 | | | |
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| | BF** | JP-10-306098-A | | 11-17-1998 | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ** CITE NO.: Those document(s) which are marked with a double asterisk (**) next to the Cite No. are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | | T ² |
| | CA** | Deguchi, "Lignin bunkaikin (IZU-154 kabu) ni yoru nylon oyobi polyethylene no seibunkai", Polymer Preprints, Japan, 1993, Vol. 42, No. 2, page 427. | | |
| | CB** | Zangi et al., "Molecular dynamics study of the folding of hydrophobin SC3 at a hydrophilic/hydrophobic interface", Biophys J., 2002, Vol. 83, No. 1, pages 112-124. | | |
| | CC** | Lugones et al., "A hydrophobin (ABH3) specifically secreted by vegetatively growing hyphae of Agaricus bisporus (common white button mushroom)", Microbiology, 1998, Vol. 144, Pt. 8, pages 2345-2353. | | |
| | CD** | Wosten et al., "Interfacial self-assembly of a fungal hydrophobin into a hydrophobic rodlet layer", Plant Cell, 1993, Vol. 5, No. 11, pages 1567-1574. | | |
| | CE** | Stringer et al., "dewA encodes a fungal hydrophobin component of the Aspergillus spore wall", Mol. Microbiol., 1995, Vol. 16, No. 1, pages 33-44. | | |
| | CF** | Parta et al., "HYP1, a hydrophobin gene from Aspergillus fumigatus, complements the rodletless phenotype in Aspergillus nidulans", Infect. Immun., 1994, Vol. 62, No. 10, pages 4389-4395. | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ** CITE NO.: Those document(s) which are marked with a double asterisk (**) next to the Cite No. are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP | GMM/nl |